

# What Is the Impact of Pleural Effusion on Survival in Patients Hospitalized for Cancer, Congestive Heart Failure, or Pneumonia?

## STUDY DESIGN

- **Retrospective analysis of US veterans** hospitalized between 2000 and 2020 with admitting diagnosis of congestive heart failure, pneumonia, or cancer **with and without clinically significant pleural effusion to compare survival**



## RESULTS

- Patients with pleural effusion had higher all-cause mortality compared with those without pleural effusion
- Medial survival time was lower in those with pleural effusion
- All-cause mortality was unchanged after adjusting for demographics and comorbid conditions

Medial survival time (years),  
95% CI



Congestive Heart Failure	1.51 years, 1.40-1.61	3.23 years, 3.21-3.26
Cancer	1.33 years, 1.27-1.39	2.05 years, 2.02-2.08
Pneumonia	4.27 years, 3.94-4.61	5.11 years, 5.06-5.15

In this study, the presence of clinically significant pleural effusion was independently associated with higher all-cause mortality in patients admitted with congestive heart failure, pneumonia, or cancer.